

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUBUMB 00903 271406Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05

STR-07 INT-05 DOE-15 SOE-02 IO-13 PM-05 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 DODE-00 L-03 OES-09 GSA-02 FRB-03

XMB-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /123 W

-----094241 281131Z /20

R 271334Z JUL 78

FM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2560

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LUBUMBASHI 0903

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, US, CG

SUBJECT: VISIT OF REGIONAL MINERALS ATTACHE TO SHABA

REF: (A) STATE 187637 (B) LUBUMBASHI 842 (C) LUBUMBASHI 0818

(D) LUBUMBASHI 0894

1. CONSULATE WELCOMES POSSIBLE VISIT BY REGIONAL MINERALS ATTACHE SUGGESTED REFTEL A. VISIT WAS INFORMALLY DISCUSSED WITH SENIOR GECAMINES OFFICIAL WHO SAID PERMISSION FOR SUCH A VISIT BY USG MINING OFFICIALS WOULD HAVE TO BE APPROVED BY APPROPRIATE MINISTRY IN KINSHASA.

2. CONSULATE HAS BASED REPORTING ON WIDE RANGE OF ZAIRIAN AND EXPATRIATE TECHNICIANS AND OFFICIALS FROM GECAMINES, SOME OF WHOM ARE VERY SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE COMPANY'S OPERATIONS. ALL AGREE THAT PRODUCTION RETURNED TO NEAR NORMAL LEVELS BERY QUICKLY IN KOLWEZI. STANDARD EXPLANATION IS THAT SINCE DAMAGE WAS VERY LIMITED, IT WAS NOT DIFFICULT TO PUSH BUTTONS TO RESUME PRODUCTION. EVEN THE MOST OPTI-
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MISTIC SAY PRODUCTION WILL FALL UNLESS THERE IS INPUT OF EXPATRIATE EXPERTISE. THE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS SHOULD NOT FOCUS ON WHAT LEVEL OF PRODUCTION HAS BEEN ATTAINED IN JUNE AND JULY, BUT HOW LONG THIS LEVEL CAN BE CONTINUED, HOW MUCH OUTSIDE TALENT IS NEEDED, AND AT WHAT LEVELS. IT IS THESE LATTER QUESTIONS WHERE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION EXIST. CONSULATE HAS TRIED TO MAKE THESE

POINTS IN REPORTING. WHILE EXPERT MIGHT NOTE CERTAIN
FUTURE NEEDS, DECISIONS FOR FUTURE ARE BEING MADE MORE
ON POLITICAL THAN ECONOMIC/TECHNICAL BASIS.

3. VICE CONSUL'S REPORT (REFTEL B) PROVIDED INFORMA-
TION GIVEN TO HIM AT EACH INSTALLATION IN KOLWEZI, HIS
OBSERVATIONS, AND ASSESSMENT WHICH NOTED THAT PROBLEMS
COULD BE EXPECTED IN AUGUST WHEN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
WILL BE ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN PRODUCTION LEVELS. OTHER
REPORTS FROM OTHER SOURCES HAVE CONFIRMED THESE FINDINGS
(REFTELS C & D).

4. RECOMMEND VISIT AFTER AUGUST 13 BECAUSE CONSULATE
WILL BE PREOCCUPIED DURING EARLIER PERIOD WITH ARRIVAL
OF NEW CONSUL.
BORG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REGIONAL, VISITS, MINERALS, ATTACHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LUBUMB00903
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780310-0046
Format: TEL
From: LUBUMBASHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780714/aaaaalyc.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3c38d76b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 187637, 78 LUBUMBASHI 842, 78 LUBUMBASHI 818, 78 LUBUMBASHI 894
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1869255
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF REGIONAL MINERALS ATTACHE TO SHABA
TAGS: EMIN, US, CG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3c38d76b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014